

REMARKS

The Office Action dated August 30, 2007, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-21, 23-32, and 34-38 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claim 39-43 has been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 5, 23, and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-4, 6-22, 24-32, and 34-41 are respectfully submitted for consideration. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 15-19 and 32-38.

Claims 1-4, 20, 21, 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,408,336 to Schneider et al. (Schneider). Claims 5-14, 22-28, 30, and 31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the based claim and any intervening claims.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitation of claim 5. Claim 5 has been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-4 be withdrawn. Claim 20 has been amended to include all of the limitation of claim 23. As such, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 20 be withdrawn. Similarly, claim 29 has been amended to include all of the limitation of claim 33. Claims 6-14, 22-28, 30, and 31 are respectively dependent upon independent

claims 1, 20, and 29. Accordingly, claims 6-14, 22-28, 30, and 31 should be allowed at least for their dependencies upon claims 1, 20, and 29.

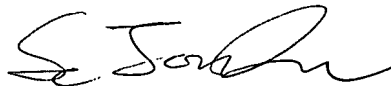
Independent claims 39-43 also recite similar features as those recited in claims 15 and 37. Applicants incorporate herein the arguments presented above supporting the patentability of independent claims 15 and 37 to support the patentability of independent claims 39-43.

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that the cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. These distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-4, 6-22, 24-32, and 34-43 be allowed, and this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
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